

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02339 280755Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1539

UNCLAS JIDDA 2339

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, SA
SUBJ: RESTRICTIONS PUT ON INFLAMMABLE OR WOOD PREFAB STRUCTURES

1. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL, ABDEL AZIZ AL JASER, DIRECTOR OF THE HOTEL DEPARTMENT, ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 26, 1978, THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOTELS IN PREFABRICATED WOOD OR OTHER INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS IS NOW BANNED IN SAUDI ARABIA. A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT COVERING THE SUBJECT STATED THAT THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, MUNICIPAL AND RURAL AFFAIRS. AS WELL AS THE LICENSING AGENCY, COMMERCE, CONCURRED WITH THE MEASURE. ALTHOUGH NO DECREE HAS AS YET BEEN PUBLISHED, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE DECISION WILL BE ENFORCED VIA LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

2. COMMENT: FOR SOMETIME NOW, SINCE THE FIRE AT THE PRE-FAB STRUCTURES HOUSING KING FEISAL HOSPITAL PERSONNEL AT RIYADH IN EARLY 1977, THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING OPPOSITION TO WOODEN PREFABS. THE FIRE DESTROYED SIX RESIDENCE IN ONE HOUR. THERE IS SEVERE RESISTANCE TO PURCHASE OF WOODEN PREFABS. U.S. FIRM LEXTON HOMES HAS HAD OVER 80 UNITS FOR SALE IN JIDDA FOR 18 MONTHS WITHOUT RESULT. U.S. FIRMS SHOULD BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY.
WILEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGULATIONS, WOOD PRODUCTS, CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, FLAMMABILITY
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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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